

**From:** Michael O'Flaherty  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/6/02 3:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

As an independent software developer in the software industry who utilizes both Microsoft software as well as software from other competitors of Microsoft's, I wanted to send you a message telling you that I feel that your handling of the Microsoft Antitrust case and the settlement you and your department arrived at is very good. I am alarmed that there are 9 states that appear to be holding out for a more severe punishment, and I can tell you I feel any further delay or change to this settlement can only hurt the economy at this point. The business climate is already fragile (though improving), and it is vital that a company such as Microsoft's be allowed to move on. We need stability in this field at this point -- allowing this case to go further can only hurt this economy.

I encourage you to end this if possible, and focus your attention where we really need it -- the fight on terrorism (where I feel you are doing a superb job!)

God bless you!  
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